



The Newsletter of the Sutton Hoo Society

SAXON

President: the Duke of Grafton KG

No. 28 / 1998



*The Coach House at Sutton Hoo, the future home of the Sutton Hoo Visitor Centre
(Photograph: R. Hoppitt)*

THE NATIONAL TRUST: NEW OWNERS OF SUTTON HOO

At 11.30 am on Friday 27 February the legal transfer of the Sutton Hoo Estate to the National Trust was completed and we entered the next stage in the process of developing visitor facilities.

A great deal of background consultation and planning work is being done by the Trust to revise the plans originally drawn up for the development. Changes have been necessary to ensure that the project remains within budget, and to allow for the alteration to the plans for the house. It was originally intended that Sutton Hoo House would be developed, under its new name of Tranmer House, into an educational centre run by University College Suffolk,

incorporating a Centre for Research into the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of East Anglia. Unfortunately, the Heritage Lottery was unable to fund this aspect of the project, and so the use of the house is being re-examined, and a new development plan is being formulated.

The Society is contributing to the whole project, through close contact with Project Director, Richard Hill, and through representation on the Sutton Hoo Advisory Group which has already met twice (just before Christmas and in the early Spring, with a further meeting scheduled for May). The group consists of representatives from the National Trust, Sutton Hoo Research Trust, the

Sutton Hoo Society, the Local Education Authority Advisory Service, and local Heritage Management Projects, giving a broad swathe of interests covering the archaeological, management and educational components which form the basis for the planning of the presentation of the site. It is anticipated that by the end of May, the revision of the original plans will be largely complete and preliminary planning for the constructional stage of the work can begin. The target for completion of the whole project, with the official opening of the visitor centre is Spring 2001.

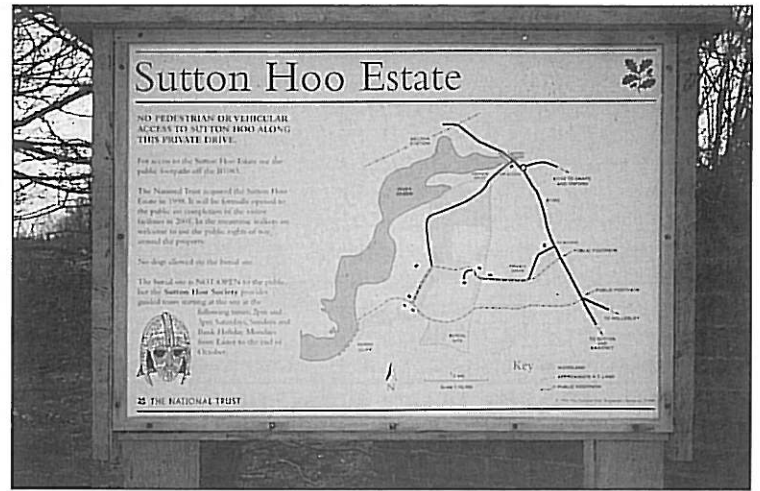
Visible changes at the site so far consist of a series of notices erected at the

****STOP PRESS: YOUR CHANCE TO VISIT SUTTON HOO HOUSE: SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS****

various entrances to the estate, outlining the route of public footpaths which run through the estate, with details of access to the burial site through guided tours provided by the Sutton Hoo Society.

As time goes on, and the changes to the estate are implemented, the Society will seek to maintain an active role in the planning and evolution of the presentation of the site during and after this transitional period.

Right: One of the new National Trust notices erected at the main entrance to the Sutton Hoo Estate informing visitors of the route of public footpaths and arrangements for visiting the site. (Photograph: R. Hoppitt)



WEB SITE NEWS

In SAXON 27 we announced the 'opening' of our Sutton Hoo Society web site on the Internet. We hoped that it would prove useful and would generate more interest in Sutton Hoo, and raise the Society's profile on an international scale. 'The unknowns were, how much use it would get, and would other people find it interesting and useful?'

So far, since the site went online, we have had over 10,000 'hits', amounting to, on average, 350 visits a week.

The majority of our 'visitors' are from the UK, with Australia a close second, followed by Canada and the United States.

We have been E-mailed through the web site by some of our members (thank you to those who have, it was good to hear from you), and we have also been able to arrange site visits; in one case a rapid exchange of E-mails allowed us to organise a pre-Christmas visit for some American academics doing a whistle-stop tour of East Anglia!

Perhaps the most interesting contact to date has been the use of the site by a high school in the State of Victoria, Australia where Year 8 pupils (12 and 13 year olds) study the Dark Ages, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. According to their teacher, Jeanette Bunn, some of her students find Anglo-Saxon history 'quite bland... irrelevant and boring.' They study the Sutton Hoo ship burial through text books, but have difficulty picturing the excavation and 'how it was done'. Jeanette says that for her students 'the great thing about your site is, it brings all this (the ship burial and its associated treasures) into this century.... in a form that they love to use in the classroom — technology! The kids loved the photos of the excavation — excavations aren't common around here! Great to see how it was done. They also enjoyed 'discovering' what was inside each of the sites on the interactive tour, especially the mounds with 'gruesome' discoveries. It really appealed to them.... They thoroughly enjoyed the site, and it really made a difference to their understanding of the topic... When we

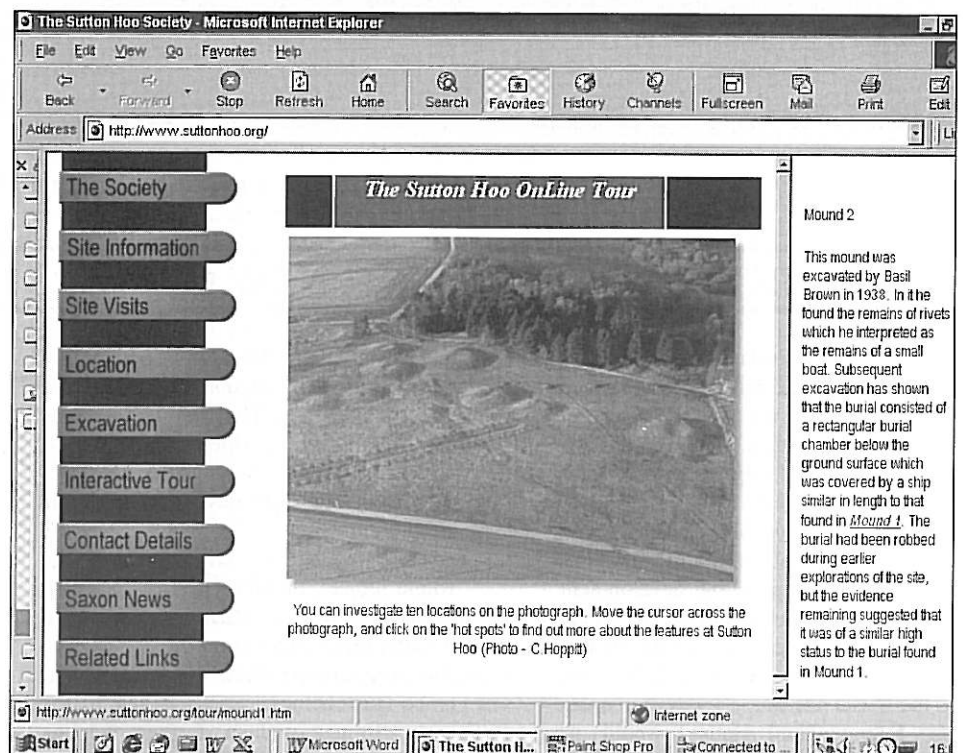
were discussing the textbook later, there were frequent references to your site.... Many thanks for your work on the site. It really changed the way they look at Anglo-Saxon history, and it has made it more alive for them.'

It was very exciting to have this contact, and the Society is grateful to Jeanette Bunn for spending time writing to us. We had not really envisaged the site being used like this, but clearly this was a successful application of it as a teaching resource, and we shall be looking now at how we can enhance the use of the site in this way. Perhaps some English teachers of history might like to think about using it — a good way of introducing or

extending using IT in your history curriculum. If you haven't yet visited the Sutton Hoo Society web site you can find us at www.suttonhoo.org.

If you have been making use of the site in innovative ways, we would be delighted to hear from you, either E-mail or 'snail mail': the contact addresses are on the back page of SAXON.

Another Sutton Hoo resource using IT is included on the back page — Nigel Macbeth's set of slides of the Sutton Hoo excavations are now available on computer disk for downloading into documents, worksheets, projects etc.



The interactive site-tour page, with details of the 'hot spot' relating to Mound 2 (Aerial photograph by Cliff Hoppitt, page design by Vivid Sites)

SOCIETY EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held at Woodbridge School on Friday 27 February, with about 50 members attending.

The Chairman reported on a year filled with activity and interest. The 1997 Spring lecture by Andrew Reynolds drew a large audience keen to learn more about 'deviant burials' and this was followed in the summer by our joint venture with Eastern Angles to provide site tours for audience groups prior to their theatrical experience of **The Wuffings**.

Our Treasurer Paul Duffy had to resign during the year due to pressure of work; his position had been taken temporarily by Peter Rooley who presented Paul's audited accounts to the meeting. The Society has had a good year financially, with increases in both visitor income and sales. The surplus of income over expenditure was £4492, of which £2000 has been allocated to the Sutton Hoo Project towards the cost of illustrations in the Field Report. In total the balance at 30 September 1997 was £10469.

The Committee was re-elected *en bloc*, and Peter Rooley was elected to fill the vacant post of Honorary Treasurer.

The business meeting was followed by a short address by Richard Hill, the National Trust Project Director for Sutton Hoo, in which he presented the various plans for the Sutton Hoo development, including the viewing platform, and the Coach House. This was followed by discussion and questions.

SPRING LECTURE

The 1998 Spring lecture attracted another good audience, this time to hear Chris Scull from English Heritage outline the findings and direction of new research on the material excavated from the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at the Buttermarket, and Boss Hall in Ipswich.

His work forms part of a joint research project with Suffolk County Archaeological Service who excavated the two sites. He gave a very clear outline of the character of the two cemeteries, and some of the conflicting evidence that they presented.

He also shared with the audience some of his ideas and theories which could account for the anomalies he identified.

Chris has kindly agreed to write a resume of the lecture for the next edition of **SAXON**.

GUIDES GET-TOGETHER

The guides assembled at Yuletide for a congenial evening hosted by the Chairman. The Committee were able to thank them all once more for their efforts during the season.

We met again in early March to go through the new arrangements for guiding at the site this year. The changes are due to the new ownership — The National Trust now being owners of the site. Trevor Connick, the co-ordinator of the National Trust Volunteers in the region addressed the meeting. For insurance purposes Society guides and helpers now need to be registered as National Trust Volunteers, and Trevor took us through the requirements and benefits to be gained from registration. Keith Turner, the National Trust's Countryside Manager for the region also explained in more detail the proposals for signposting the footpaths across the Sutton Hoo estate.

Below: Sutton Hoo House, now re-named Tranmer House in memory of Annie Tranmer whose bequest has made secure the future of the Sutton Hoo archaeological site. It was here that Edith Pretty lived during the period of the 1930s excavations at the site.

(Photograph: R. Hoppitt)

FUTURE EVENTS

Sutton Hoo Open Day

By kind invitation of the National Trust we shall be holding a Sutton Hoo Society Members' Open Day at which you will be able to look round Sutton Hoo House (now re-named Tranmer House), see the Coach House and the plans for its development, and walk through the grounds.

We felt that members would enjoy the opportunity to see parts of the Sutton Hoo estate that until now had been private. Some of these, such as Sutton Hoo House itself, where Mrs Pretty lived at the time of the 1930s excavations, have their own part in the story of Sutton Hoo and its excavations.

The Open Day has been fixed for **Sunday 28 June, from 11am to 1.00pm**. The visit will include a guided tour of the house, a walk round the exterior of the house, coach house, gardens and part of the woods and heaths of the estate, and an opportunity to see the latest proposals for the development of the site by the National Trust developments. The visit will be concluded with a ploughman's lunch, which hopefully if the weather is fine will be served on the lawn.

If you wish to join us for the Open Day please note that **the event is open to members of the Sutton Hoo Society only, and entrance is by pre-purchased ticket**. Tickets are £5.00 each, to cover the cost of the lunch. There will be no entrance other than by pre-purchased ticket.

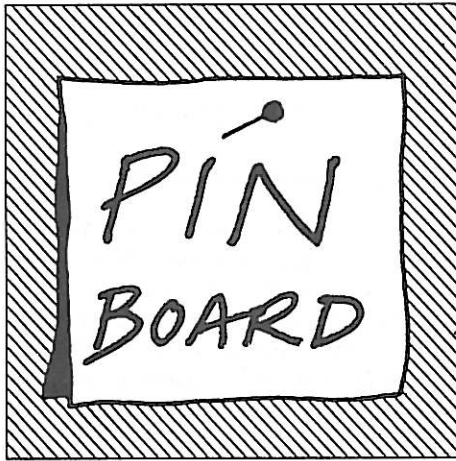
Please send a **cheque** for the appropriate sum, with your **name, address and membership number (if known), and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Stewart Salmond, Tailor's House, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3AJ** to arrive no later than Friday 18 June.

Autumn Conference

Continuing the Society's aims of education in relation to Sutton Hoo and the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of East Anglia, we have this year taken the step of organising a day conference.

The conference will take place at the **Community Hall, Woodbridge, on Saturday 14 November**. The theme of the day will be **The Creation of East Anglia: cultural identity in the 5th to 9th centuries**, as shown by archaeological and historical sources. Speakers include academics and professional archaeologists all of whom are currently working at the forefront of research. **Further details will be included in the conference programme and booking form which will be sent to you in a separate mailing in July.** If for some reason it fails to arrive, then please send an S.A.E. to **Andrew Lovejoy, 28 Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Suffolk IP13 9HA** for a copy, or if you can, visit the Society's web site at **www.suttonhoo.org** where details will also be available.





DIARY

SUTTON HOO OPENING TIMES

The site opened on Easter Saturday, 11 April, and will continue to be open on weekend and Bank Holiday afternoons up to and including Sunday 1 November. Guided tours begin at approximately 2pm and 3pm. A reminder that if you come by car you need to allow yourself 20 minutes to walk along the track to the site. Entrance charges are £2 for adults, £1 for 10-18 year-olds, under 10s are free. For Sutton Hoo Society members entrance is also free (on production of your current membership card). National Trust members are currently required to pay the entrance fee.

If you want to visit the site with a party or group of people, you can book a visit at any reasonable time throughout the year. Contact Stewart Salmond for party bookings (address below).

SUTTON HOO OPEN DAY

Those of you who are long-standing members will remember the site open days which took place at the end of each excavation season. We are reviving this idea, but with a difference. There will be a unique opportunity for members to look round Sutton Hoo, including Sutton Hoo House and the Coach House, before the National Trust begins work on the alterations. The day will be hosted jointly by the National Trust and

the Sutton Hoo Society, and will be limited to Sutton Hoo Society members. For more details see **Society Events** inside this issue of **SAXON**.

SUTTON HOO CONFERENCE

As a change from the annual excursion, this year we are organising a **Day Conference** to take place in **Woodbridge** on **Saturday 14 November 1998**. An outline of the programme is included in **Society Events** inside this edition of **SAXON**. **Details will be sent to you in July**. We are hoping that this may become a regular event.

UEA DAY SCHOOL:

The University of East Anglia is holding a Day School on **Saturday 1 August**, at the Community Centre in Woodbridge. **John Pulleyn Appleby** will be looking at **Anglo-Saxon Sea Power**. The intention is to have Edwin Gifford's half-scale replica Mound 1 ship there on the day. For more information contact the Department for Continuing Education, University of East Anglia, NORWICH NR4 7TJ Tel: 01603 593497.

PUBLICATIONS

NEW BOOK

A reminder that Martin Carver's book **Sutton Hoo, Burial Ground of Kings?** has now been published by British Museum Press. A flyer is included in this copy of **SAXON** if you wish to purchase by mail order. The book is also available from the Sutton Hoo site (in which case the profit goes to the Society!).

SUTTON HOO PHOTOGRAPHS

Many of you will already have copies of the set of colour slides produced by Nigel Macbeth, covering the recent excavations carried out between 1983 and 1992. As photographer to the Sutton Hoo Research Project, Nigel took hundreds of photographs of the excavations. The selection of 24 photographs which make up the slide set are now available as stored images on a standard

3" floppy disk for use on personal computer. This new facility allows you the opportunity to be more versatile — for example if you are a teacher, your pupils might like the opportunity to insert the images into school projects on the Anglo-Saxons or Sutton Hoo, or you might like to use them to make worksheets and other resources. The disk is designed to work on 386 or higher IBM PC or Macintosh with 1.5Mb RAM, and costs £12 including UK postage; overseas customers should add £1 for the additional cost. If you would like to order a disk, a slide set, or write for more details, contact Nigel Macbeth, 30 St Mary's Road, Creeping St Mary, IPSWICH IP6 8LZ; Tel. 01449 720214

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to Andrew Lovejoy for stepping back into the shoes of Guiding Secretary earlier this year. Stewart Salmond, who took over the guiding last year, was taken ill in February, and Andrew kindly volunteered to step into the breach and hold the fort until Stewart was fully fit and able to resume duties.

APPEALS

GUIDES — WE NEED YOU

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new guides to the team this year, and hope that they enjoy the experience of acting as hosts to our visitors. If you are interested in becoming a guide, or helping by selling tickets, books and postcards in the hut, we would be delighted to hear from you. We are already seeing an increase in visitors this year, and will be glad of extra help.

If you were once a teacher, then you would also be welcome to help with school parties. Current teachers may like to know that we publish a pack of information about the site and how it can be used to help your history teaching, particularly at Key Stage 2.

If you are interested either in guiding, helping or the Teacher's pack, then please contact the Visits and Guiding Secretary, Stewart Salmond for details (address below).

Contact Addresses

Saxon Editor, Rosemary Hoppitt, Email: chairman@suttonhoo.org
Sutton Hoo Research Project, Dept. of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP
The Sutton Hoo Society, c/o NatWest Bank plc, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1JD
A A Lovejoy, Membership Secretary, 28, Pembroke Road, Framlingham, Suffolk IP13 9HA
Stewart Salmond, Visits & Guiding Secretary, Tailor's House, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3AJ
Internet Web Site: <http://www.suttonhoo.org>

Sutton Hoo Society Committee Members

Chairman: Rosemary Hoppitt Hon. Secretary: Sue Banyard Hon. Treasurer: Peter Rooley Research Director: Martin Carver
Membership Secretary: Andrew Lovejoy Visits & Guiding Secretary: Stewart Salmond Publicity: Peter Rooley
Publications: Rosemary Hoppitt
Jenny Glazebrook Lindsey Lee John Newman Sam Newton Pearl Simper Robert Simper Angus Wainwright

CREDITS

Saxon Editor: Rosemary Hoppitt Sub-editor: Jenny Glazebrook Original Design: Nigel MacBeth